IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 9 through 20, and add claims 21 through 39, as follows:

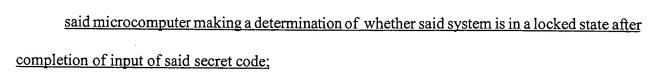1   9. (Amended) A video system having a mode of operation for generating output signals

2   having video components and a standby mode of operation wherein said output signals are not

3   generated, said system comprising:

4   a microcomputer responding to input signals selectively input from a keyboard [and] or a

5   remote control receiver by controlling production of video images corresponding to said video

6   components through generation of a control output for a period of time defined by a first input of

7   lock key data followed by a secret code and a second input of said lock key data followed by [a] said

8   secret code:

9   a video signal processor receiving and processing a first video signal:

10   a character generating circuit responding to character data output from said microcomputer

11 by generating a second video signal:

12   a mixer generating said video [component] components by mixing said first video signal and

13 said second video signal: and

14   a video mute circuit responding to said control output by preventing said first video signal

15 from being output to said mixer.

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1   <u>10.</u> (Amended) <u>The video system of claim 9, further comprised of said microcomputer</u>

2   <u>terminating transmission of said control output upon expiration of said period of time.</u>

1   <u>11.</u> (Amended) <u>The video system of claim 9, further comprised of said microcomputer</u>

2   <u>responding to a determination that lock key data has been input from said keyboard or said remote</u>

3   <u>control when said system is in said standby mode, by controlling said character generating circuit</u>

4   <u>to display a corresponding message on a video screen prompting a user of said system to input a</u>

5   <u>secret code one character at a time.</u>

1   <u>12.</u> (Amended) <u>The video system of claim 11, further comprised of said character</u>

2   <u>generating circuit changing said displayed prompt message seriatim to [correspond to] display</u>

3   <u>corresponding characters in a sequence of said secret code input by the user.</u>

1   <u>13.</u> (Amended) <u>The video system of claim 9, further comprising:</u>

2   <u>said microcomputer making a determination of whether said system is in a locked state after</u>

3   <u>completion of input of said secret code;</u>

4   <u>said microcomputer generating said control output when said determination indicates that</u>

5   <u>said system is not in said locked state; and</u>

6   <u>said microcomputer making a comparison of said secret code to an earlier code previously</u>

7   <u>stored when said determination indicates that said system is in said locked state and, when said</u>

8   comparison establishes a match between said secret code and said earlier code, terminating

9   generation of said control output.

1   14. (Amended) The video system of claim 13, further comprised of said microcomputer

2   memorizing said secret code when said determination establishes that said system is not in said

3   locked state.

1   15. (Amended) A video system having a mode of operation for generating output signals

2   having audio components and video components and a standby mode of operation wherein said

3   output signals are not generated, said system comprising:

4   a microcomputer responding to input signals selectively input from a keyboard [and] or a

5   remote control receiver by controlling broadcast of audio sounds corresponding to said audio

6   components through generation of a control output for a period of time defined by a first input of

7   lock key data followed by a secret code and a second input of said lock key data followed by [a] said

8   secret code;

9   a video signal processor receiving and processing a first video signal;

10 an audio processor generating said audio components;

11 a character generating circuit responding to character data output from said microcomputer

12 by generating a second video signal;

13 a mixer generating said video component by mixing said first video signal and said second

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14   video signal; and

15   an audio mute circuit responding to said control output by muting said audio sounds.

1   16. (Amended) The video system of claim 15, further comprised of said microcomputer

2   terminating transmission of said control output upon expiration of said period of time.

1   17. (Amended) The video system of claim 15, further comprised of said microcomputer

2   responding to a determination that lock key data has been input from said keyboard or said remote

3   control when said system is in said standby mode, by controlling said character generating circuit

4   to display a corresponding message on a video screen prompting a user of said system to input [a]

5   said secret code one character at a time.

1   18. (Amended) The video system of claim 17, further comprised of said character

2   generating circuit changing said displayed prompt message seriatim to [correspond to] display

3   corresponding characters in a sequence of said secret code input by the user.

1   19. (Amended) The video system of claim 15, further comprising:

2   said microcomputer making a determination of whether said system is in a locked state after

3   completion of input of said secret code;

4   said microcomputer generating said control output when said determination indicates that

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5   said system is not in said locked state; and

6   said microcomputer making a comparison of said secret code to an earlier code previously

7   stored when said determination indicates that said system is in said locked state and, when said

8   comparison establishes a match between said secret code and said earlier code, terminating

9   generation of said control output.

1   20. (Amended) A process for operating a video system, comprising:

2   making a subjective evaluation of content portrayed by a first video signal to be transmitted

3   for reception by a video display apparatus exhibiting a system power standby mode of operation and

4   a second mode of operation providing varying visual images corresponding to said first video signal;

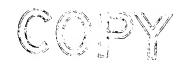5   during said system power standby mode of operation, selectively generating a blocking code

6   in dependence upon said evaluation; and

7   responding to said blocking code by blocking transmission of said first video signal to said

8   video display apparatus.

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1   21. A method of operating a video system having a playback mode of operation for

2   reproducing a video image and a standby mode of operation wherein the video image is not

3   reproduced, the video system including a microcomputer, at least one input device, a video signal

4   processor generating a first video signal, a character generator receiving first control signals from

5   the microcomputer for generating second video signals including character data, a mixer receiving

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6 said first video signal and said second video signals and providing a mixed video signal to a first

7 output terminal and an audio signal processor providing an audio signal to a second output terminal,

8 said first output terminal and said second output terminal being adapted to supply reproducible video

9 signals and reproducible audio signals to an external television, said method comprising the steps

10 of:

11 when the video system is in said standby mode of operation, receiving a lock function code

12 from said input device;

13 providing a code sequence to said microcomputer via said input device;

14 passing said code sequence to said character generator for inclusion in said second video

15 signal;

16 when a last character of said code sequence is received by said microcomputer, immediately

17 verifying the status of the video system so as to determine whether said video system is in a locked

18 state or in an unlocked state;

19 when said video system is in said unlocked state, immediately generating a second control

20 signal and a third control signal to terminate transmission of said first video signal to said mixer and

21 said audio signal to said second output terminal, respectively;

22 when said code sequence and said previous code sequence match, immediately terminating

23 transmission of said second control signal and said third control so as to permit output of said first

24 video signal and said audio signal; and

25 when said code sequence and said previous code sequence match, immediately terminating

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26   transmission of said second control signal and said third control so as to permit output of said first

27   video signal and said audio signal; and

28   when said code sequence and said previous code sequence match, passing different first

29   control signals to said character generator for inclusion of an error indication in said second video

30   signal.

1   22.   A video system having a playback mode of operation for reproducing a video image

2   and a standby mode of operation wherein the video image is not reproduced, said video system

3   comprising:

4   a microcomputer;

5   at least one input device providing a coded sequence and a lock function signal to said

6   microcomputer;

7   a video signal processor generating a first video signal;

8   a character generator receiving first control signals from the microcomputer for generating

9   second video signals including character data;

10   a mixer receiving said first video signal and said second video signal and providing a mixed

11   video signal to a first output terminal; and

12   an audio signal processor providing an audio signal to a second output terminal,

13   said first output terminal and said second output terminal respectively supplying reproducible

14   video signals and reproducible audio signals to an external television,

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15   said video system receiving said lock function signal only in said standby mode of operation,

16   said microcomputer responding to a last character of said code sequence received by said

17   microcomputer by immediately verifying the status of the video system to determine whether said

18   video system is in a locked state and whether said video system is in an unlocked state.

1   23.   The video system of claim 22, further comprising:

2   a video muting circuit coupled between said video signal processor and said mixer for

3   transmitting said first video signal; and

4   an audio muting circuit operatively coupled to said audio processor;

5   said microcomputer providing a second control signal and a third control signal to said video

6   muting circuit and said audio muting circuit to terminate transmission of said first video signal to

7   said mixer and said audio signal to said second output terminal, respectively, when said video system

8   is in said unlocked state;

9   said microcomputer comparing a stored previous code sequence with said code sequence

10   when said video system is in said locked state;

11   said microcomputer terminating transmission of said second control signal and said third

12   control signal so as to permit output of said first video signal and said audio signal when said code

13   sequence and said previous code sequence match; and

14   said microcomputer supplying different first control signals to said character generator so as

15   to include an error indication in said second video signal when said code sequence and said previous

16   code sequence match.

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17   24.   A video system having a playback mode of operation for reproducing a video image

18   and a standby mode of operation wherein the video image is not reproduced, said video system

19   comprising:

20   a microcomputer responsive to input signals from a keyboard or a remote control receiver

21   for controlling the video system;

22   a video signal processor receiving and processing for display a first video signal video;

23   a character generating circuit responsive to character data output from said microcomputer,

24   generating a second video signal for said video display;

25   a mixer receiving said first video signal and said second video signal and mixing said first

26   and second video signals for said video display; and

27   a video mute circuit responding to a first control output from said microcomputer by

28   preventing said first video signal from being output to said mixer;

29   said microcomputer generating said first control output for a period of time defined by a first

30   input of lock key data followed by a first input of a secret code and a second input of said lock key

31   data followed by a second said input of a secret code; and

32   said microcomputer terminating transmission of said first control output upon expiration of

33   said period of time.

1   25.   The video system of claim 24, further comprised of said microcomputer determining

2   whether there is lock key data input from either said keyboard or said remote control when said

3   video system is in a power-standby status and controlling said character generating circuit to display

4   a corresponding prompt message on a screen requesting a user to input a secret code one character

5   at a time;

6   said character generating circuit changing said displayed prompt message to correspond to

7   a desired one of a sequence of characters of said secret code said user is to input following an input

8   of a previous one of said characters;

9   said microcomputer storing each input character of said secret code when said input character

10   corresponds to a numerical key of either said keyboard or said remote control;

11   said microcomputer checking said video system to determine whether said video system is

12   in a locked state after said user completes input of the secret code;

13   said microcomputer controlling said video mute circuit responsive to said first control output

14   to prevent output of said first video signal when said video system is determined not to be in said

15   locked state; and

16   said microcomputer comparing said input secret code to a code previously stored when said

17   video system is determined to be in said locked state and, when there is a match, determining that

18   said period of time has expired and disabling said video mute circuit.

1   26.   The video system of claims 25, further comprised of said microcomputer memorizing

2   said secret code when said system is determined to not be in said locked state.

1   27.   A locking method for controlling an on-screen display system having a lock key on

2   a keyboard or a remote control, said method comprising the steps of:

3   checking for a key-data input signal from one of said keyboard or said remote control during

4   a system power standby mode of operation until said checking step identifies said key-data input

5   signal as being indicative of an input from said lock key;

6   displaying prompts, on a screen, for a lock function setting state by employing an on-screen

7   display function when the checking step identifies said key-data input signal as being indicative of

8   an input from said lock key and sequentially storing and displaying, on said screen, a secret code

9   input by a user in response to said prompts;

10   immediately making a determination of whether the on-screen display system is in a locked

11   state with said on-screen display system preventing viewing of any video program other than said

12   prompts for said lock function setting state after the secret code is input to the on-screen display

13   system;

14   storing the secret code as a lock code, clearing said screen of said prompts and said secret

15   code displayed during the displaying step, and locking the on-screen display system when the

16   determination indicates that the on-screen display system is not in said locked state;

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17   making a comparison between the secret code and a stored lock code already in the on-screen

18   display system when the determination indicates that the on-screen display system is in said locked

19   state; and

20   clearing the secret code from the screen and unlocking the on-screen display system with said

21   on-screen display system enabling said viewing when said comparison determines that the secret

22   code and the stored lock code match each other.

1   28.   A locking/unlocking method for a video system having a microcomputer controlling

2   the video system, a key matrix transmitting user input information to the microcomputer, a remote

3   control receiver receiving remote control signals from a remote control transmitter and converting

4   the signals into digital key data, a video signal processor reproducing and outputting a video signal

5   of a video program, an on screen display unit receiving alphanumeric information data from the

6   microcomputer and displaying an image signal of the alphanumeric information data on a display

7   screen, and a mixer mixing the video signal from the video processor and the image signal from the

8   on screen display unit and outputting the mixed signal to a video receiver, said method comprising

9   the steps of:

10   checking for an input signal, to said microcomputer, from a lock key of said key matrix

11   during a system power stand-by state and remaining in said stand-by state until said checking step

12   determines that said input signal has been input to said microcomputer;

13 displaying prompts for setting a lock state of a lock setting function using an on screen

14 display function for displaying said prompts on said display screen when said checking step

15 determines that said input signal from said lock key has been input;

16 storing in a memory and displaying on said display screen a secret code sequentially input

17 by a user using the key matrix in response to said prompts;

18 determining whether the lock state of said system is a locked state or an unlocked state after

19 a last character of said secret code has been input;

20 storing the input secret code as a lock secret code, clearing the display screen and locking the

21 video system when the lock state is determined to the in said unlocked state;

22 comparing the input secret code with a lock code previously stored in the microcomputer

23 when the lock state is determined to be in said locked state;

24 displaying an error message according to the alphanumeric information data from said

25 microcomputer when said comparing step determines that said input secret code does not match said

26 previously stored lock code; and

27 clearing the secret code from the display screen, and unlocking the video system when said

28 comparing step determines that said input secret code matches said previously stored lock code.

29. A video system having a mode of operation for generating output signals having video

components and a standby mode of operation wherein said output signals are not generated, said

system comprising:

a microcomputer responding to input signals selectively input from a keyboard or a remote control receiver by controlling display of video images corresponding to said video components through generation of a control output for a period of time defined by a first input of lock key data followed by a first input of a secret code and a second input of said lock key data followed by a second input of a secret code;

a video signal processor receiving and processing a first video signal;

a character generating circuit responding to character data output from said microcomputer by generating a second video signal;

a mixer generating said video component by mixing said first video signal and said second video signal; and

a video mute circuit responding to said control output by preventing said first video signal from being output to said mixer.

1   30. The video system of claim 29, further comprised of said microcomputer terminating

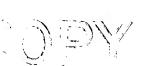2   transmission of said control output upon expiration of said period of time.

1   31. The video system of claim 29, further comprised of said microcomputer responding to

2   a determination that lock key data has been input from said keyboard or said remote control when

3   said system is in said standby mode, by controlling said character generating circuit to display a

4   corresponding message on a video screen prompting a user of said system to input a secret code one

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5   character at a time.

1   32.   The video system of claim 31, further comprised of said character generating circuit

2   changing said displayed prompt message seriatim to display corresponding characters in a sequence

3   of said secret code input by the user.

4   33.   The video system of claim 29, further comprising:

5   said microcomputer making a determination of whether said system is in a locked state after

6   completion of input of said secret code;

7   said microcomputer generating said control output when said determination indicates that

8   said system is not in said locked state; and

9   said microcomputer making a comparison of said secret code to an earlier code previously

10   stored when said determination indicates that said system is in said locked state and, when said

11   comparison establishes a match between said secret code and said earlier code, terminating

12   generation of said control output.

1   34.   The video system of claim 33, further comprised of said microcomputer memorizing

2   said secret code when said determination establishes that said system is not in said locked state.

1   35.   A video system having a mode of operation for generating output signals having audio

2   components and video components and a standby mode of operation wherein said output signals are

3   not generated, said system comprising:

4   a microcomputer responding to input signals selectively input from a keyboard or a remote

5   control receiver by controlling broadcast of audio sounds corresponding to said audio components

6   through generation of a control output for a period of time defined by a first input of lock key data

7   followed by a first input of a secret code and a second input of said lock key data followed by a

8   second input of a said secret code;

9   a video signal processor receiving and processing a first video signal;

10   an audio processor generating said audio components;

11   a character generating circuit responding to character data output from said microcomputer

12   by generating a second video signal;

13   a mixer generating said video component by mixing said first video signal and said second

14   video signal; and

15   an audio mute circuit responding to said control output by muting said audio sounds.

1   36. The video system of claim 35, further comprised of said microcomputer terminating

2   transmission of said control output upon expiration of said period of time.

1   37. The video system of claim 35, further comprised of said microcomputer responding to

2   a determination that lock key data has been input from said keyboard or said remote control when

3   said system is in said standby mode, by controlling said character generating circuit to display a

4   corresponding message on a video screen prompting a user of said system to complete entry of one

5   of said first input or said second input of said secret code one character at a time.

1   38. The video system of claim 37, further comprised of said character generating circuit

2   changing said displayed prompt message seriatim to display corresponding characters in a sequence

3   of said secret code input by the user.

1   39. The video system of claim 35, further comprising:

2   said microcomputer making a determination of whether said system is in a locked state after

3   completion of said entry of said secret code;

4   said microcomputer generating said control output when said determination indicates that

5   said system is not in said locked state; and

6   said microcomputer making a comparison of said second input of a secret code to when said

7   determination indicates that said system is in said locked state and, when said comparison establishes

8   a match between said second input of a secret code and said first input of a secret code, terminating

9   generation of said control output.